

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today introduced a bill that would exempt detasseling from proposed federal Department of Labor rules limiting youth involvement in certain agricultural work. Congressman Lee Terry is a cosponsor.

"We all believe in ensuring the safety of young people," Fortenberry said. "But this proposed rule could go as far as keeping teenagers from detasseling, a rite of passage in Nebraska and other Heartland states. In the process, it would threaten a vital industry and an important economic opportunity for many Nebraskans. This bill would exempt detasseling and related work from the new rules should they go into effect."

Fortenberry, a member of the House Agriculture Committee, has also submitted to the Department of Labor his concerns about the proposed rule's potential impact on family farm operations and agricultural education programs such as 4-H and Future Farmers of America.

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